

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-45 are currently active in this case. Claim 42 has been cancelled, and Claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 19, 22, 28 and 31 have been amended by way of the present amendment. Each amended claim is supported by the specification and claims as originally submitted and no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gilbertson* (U.S. Pat No. 6,510,405) in view of *Trimberger* (U.S. Patent No. 5,650,946); and Claims 42-45 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter in Claims 42-45:

With minor variances, independent Claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 19, 22, 28, and 31 have been amended to incorporate the pertinent limitations present in Claim 42 which are already deemed allowable.

Based on the patentability of independent Claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 19, 22, 28, and 31, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11, 12, 14-18, 20, 21, 23-27, 29, 30, 32-41, and 43-45 are also patentable.



Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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